

WOMEN OF STEEL

Letter from Leo W. Gerard, International President

I wanted to take a few personal moments today to join with you in celebrating and reflecting on the contributions women have made to build a stronger social consciousness throughout the world. All significant struggles and benchmark events in labor's history can find strong female leadership and involvement. From the history of the past we can be renewed for the struggles of the future, but the successes of the future must reflect the inclusion of women who bring so much to the labor movement.

You have much to celebrate! Yet we have much to recommit our energies toward, because:

- ❖ too many women and their families are living below the poverty level;
- ❖ too many are working without basic labor protection that a union provides;
- ❖ too many are growing old without a social

safety net for the basics of living and having adequate medical care;

- ❖ too many are having to choose between family obligations and a job they need in order to survive;
- ❖ too many have no voice in their home or on the job.



We need **today** to recommit ourselves to being there for them on the issues that will continue to make our Union and the Labor Movement the leaders they have always been for social and employment justice.

I commend you and your sisters from around the world. You are making a change. You are the voice for so many unseen women, especially for those who are most in need of our support.

I join with you in solidarity and celebration.